

OLIVER M. GALE  
3798 ASHWORTH DRIVE • CINCINNATI, OHIO 45208  
PHONE: 321-3920

February 4, 1997

Dear Eric:

Was delighted by your good letter of a month ago. And pleased by the thought of another trip together.

Here are my travel plans:

February 9 to 16 - Taking my daughter Debbi to Barbuda for a week or R & R. She is going through a rather distressful divorce, and this spot, I think is one of the best in the world for pure relaxation: lying in the sun, snorkeling in crystal clear emerald waters, drinking rum punches ...

April 12 - 19 - A cruise on the Rhine, from Strasbourg to Amsterdam. Really, just killing time waiting for the next trip, which lasts only about a week. Seemed like too short a time for the trip across the ocean, so I padded it this way. I shall be alone for this cruise.

April 19 to 27 - A barge on the canals of Holland during tulip time. Will be with a Cincinnati couple, good friends of mine with whom I've taken many trips. The barge is small, and I'm afraid spaces are gone.

May 2 to 14 - A jaunt called *On the trail of Lewis and Clark*. A bit of a misnomer: we pick up only that part west of the Continental Divide, and traverse the Columbia and Snake rivers, which in the Lewis and Clark journals are full of cascades and waterfalls and fierce white-water which caused no end of trouble, and now are dammed to the point where they are a series of pools. I'll be with a delightful gal from Cincinnati, but there certainly is room for you.

July 14 to 23 - A trip to the Swedish Archipelago which catches my fancy enormously. We spend two or three nights in a succession of small inns in the villages that dot some of the thousands of tiny islands, relishing the rural atmosphere, strolling down the village roads, a thousand miles from the tourist-filled cities. Some days we get aboard a small ship and probe back into the canals and waterways of the area, visiting other small villages. I love the Swedish, and this will be a glimpse of them and their life that is not easily seen. I shall be alone on this trip -- although I have been trying, probably unsuccessfully, to persuade one or two others to join me.



August 11 to 18 - My annual trek to Stratford, Ontario, for the Shakespeare Festival. I will be with two couples from Cincinnati and my niece from New Hampshire. Always look forward to this, for the plays and also for the enchanting little town.

September 17 to October 3 - A voyage on a ship called the *Hebridean*, bouncing around among the islands north and northwest of Scotland. I have visited these islands -- the Orkneys and the Hebrides and such, as well as the wilds of northern Scotland itself. But I am intrigued by the vessel. They say it was built to accommodate 800 people, and has been remodeled to take only 80. Should be spacious -- and they say, luxurious. I couldn't resist having a look at it. I am going alone -- although, again, I am making a so-far-futile attempt to inveigle someone to accompany me.

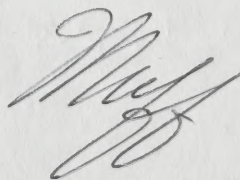
That's as far as my present schedule goes. It may seem like a lot of time off in the yonder, but living alone in a small condominium town-house, I find after a month or so that it's time to stir about.

I'd love to have the two of you on any one of these. Probably the barge trip is out, and the Stratford trip is a bit occupied, but any of the others would be a delight. If you'd like more information on any one or more of them, just drop a hat.

Your travels must be made infinitely more interesting by visiting countries where you have young -- such as South Africa and Japan and Paraguay. It is always great to visit a country where you can be close to someone who truly knows his or her way around, and can fill you in on the situation that rarely gets into the newspapers or TV. The best I can do is a nephew in Nairobi. I remember vividly a day I spent with him, just walking about the town while he pointed things out to me, and talked about Kenya.

Let me know if anything on the above smorgasbord appeals to you. I would be delighted to see you both again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Muff".